

DOCUMENTED CHROMOSOME NUMBERS. 2003: 2.
CHROMOSOME NUMBERS OF THE RARE TEXAS SPECIES,
ARIDA BLEPHAROPHYLLA AND *A. MATTTURNERI*
(ASTERACEAE: ASTEREAE)

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Meiotic chromosome counts for the exceedingly rare Texas species, *Arida blepharophylla* (A. Gray) Morgan & Hartman and *A. matturneri* B.L. Turner & Nesom (cf. description in this issue, p. 1418) are reported, both being diploid with $2n = 5$ pairs. The two taxa were found growing together or near each other in 'Blumberg Canyon', ca. 2 mi NNW of Ruidosa, Presidio Co., Texas.

Vouchers for the collections: *Arida matturneri*, Matt Turner 100 (NY, SRSC, TEX); *Arida blepharophylla*, B.L. Turner 23-91 (SRSC, TEX).

Arida blepharophylla (= *Machaeranthera gypsitherma* Nesom, Vorobik & Hartman) was also previously counted as diploid ($2n = 5$ pairs) from a population in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico (Nesom et al. 1990). Free hand drawings of the chromosomes, from buds collected on 28 Aug 2003 by B.L. Turner, are illustrated in Fig. 1.



FIG 1. Meiotic chromosomes of *Arida matturneri* (left side, 5 bivalents at metaphase 1); and *A. blepharophylla* (5 bivalents and 3 centric fragments, at diakinesis)

REFERENCE

NESOM, G.L., L.A. VOROBİK, and R.L. HARTMAN. 1990. The identity of *Aster blepharophylla* (Asteraceae: Astereae). Syst. Bot. 15:638–642.